

Applic. No.: 10/667,720
Amdt. Dated August 26, 2006
Reply to Office action of July 19, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-9 remain in the application. Claim 1 has been amended.

In item 2 on page 2 of the above-mentioned Office action, claim 1 has been rejected as being anticipated by Komura et al. (US 6,216,232 B1) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

In item 4 on page 2 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 1-9 have been rejected as being anticipated by Douglas et al. (US 6,609,193 B1) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

As will be explained below, it is believed that the claims were patentable over the cited art in their original form and the claims have, therefore, not been amended to overcome the references. However, the language of claim 1 has been modified in consideration of the Examiner's comments in item 7 of Office action and in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. Support for the changes is found on page 6, lines 20-25 of the specification.

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Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claim 1 calls for, inter alia:

said program-controlled unit configured for executing pipeline instructions instructing said program-controlled unit to stop an individual one of said plurality of pipeline stages, more than one of said plurality of pipeline stages, or all of said plurality of pipeline stages without creating conditions for which one pipeline stage, a plurality pipeline stages, or all pipeline stages are to be stopped.

As already discussed in the previous response, neither Komura et al. nor Douglas et al. disclose pipeline instructions, which simply instruct to stop the pipeline stage(s) as required without creating conditions for which one pipeline stage, a plurality pipeline stages, or all pipeline stages are stopped. This allows the stopping of the pipeline stages to be tested simply, quickly, and comprehensively under all circumstances. See page 6, lines 20-25 of the specification.

The Examiner has pointed out that in Douglas et al. when a buffer becomes full, the instruction decode pipeline needs to stall to prevent instructions from being lost (column 6, lines 60-67). However, it is noted that the instruction decode pipeline has nothing to do with the pipeline instructions for simply instructing to stop the pipeline stage(s) as required according to the invention of the instant application. The

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instruction decode pipeline is not instructed to stall by pipeline instructions; rather it stalls upon the condition that the buffer becomes full.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claim 1. Claim 1 is, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-9 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out. In the alternative, the entry of the amendment is requested as it is believed to place the application in better condition for appeal, without requiring extension of the field of search.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to 37 CFR Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to

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the Deposit Account of Lerner Greenberg Stemer LLP, No. 12-
1099.

Respectfully submitted,

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